

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

H-02 RSR-01 /088 W

----- 092869

P 171730 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9303

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: WORLD AIRWAYS CHARTER PROBLEMS

REF: PARIS 2880

1. SUMMARY: WORLD AIRWAYS MAY APPROACH DEPARTMENT RE SGAC REFUSAL AUTHORIZE THREE INTRAV CHARTERS ORIGINATING LOS ANGELES. SGAC HAS AUTHORIZED 28 OF 31 FLIGHTS REQUESTED BY WORLD, INCLUDING ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS TWO ORIGINATING LOS ANGELES DESPITE SGAC BAN ON WEST COAST ORIGIN CHARTER TRAFFIC TO PAPEETE BY SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS. UTA HAS NO OBJECTIONS WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHTS. WORLD AIRWAYS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY WET LEASE ITS EQUIPMENT TO UTA FOR FLIGHTS AND IS REFILING WITH SGAC REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION. IF THESE MEASURES FAIL WORLD AIRWAYS WILL REQUEST NEW DEMARCHE TO GOF. END SUMMARY.

2. WORLD AIRWAYS MAY BE APPROACHING DEPARTMENT RE SGAC CONTINUED REFUSAL AUTHORIZE THREE INTRAV CHARTERS DEPARTING LOS ANGELES WITH STOPOVER AT PAPEETE. FIRST FLIGHT SCHEDULED DEPART APRIL 24 AND OTHERS APRIL 28 AND MAY 10. WORLD AIRWAYS VICE PRESIDENTS HUGHES AND HARDENSTINE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY THIS QUESTION AND CAA OBTAINED READING SGAC POSITION FROM MME.
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THOMASSET, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF CHARTER AUTHORIZATIONS ON ABRAHAM'S STAFF, WHEN THEY WERE UNABLE GET THROUGH TO HER.

3. THOMASSET IS UNMOVED BY WORLD AIRWAYS ARGUMENT THEY COULD BE FACED WITH LITIGATION IF NOW FORCED CANCEL FLIGHTS SOLD PRIOR RECEIPT NEEDED AUTHORIZATION PAPEETE STOPOVER. THOMASSET STATED FLATLY SGAC REFUSAL AUTHORIZE THREE LOS ANGELES FLIGHTS IS FINAL. SAID SGAC HAD SOUGHT ACCOMMODATE WORLD AIRWAYS BY AUTHORIZING TWO FLIGHTS FROM LOS ANGELES AS EXCEPTION TO SGAC RULE BANNING CHARTERS BETWEEN U. S. WEST COAST AND PAPEETE BY SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS. THIS SIMILAR TO BAN ON SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER TRAFFIC NEW YORK - MARTINIQUE. WORLD AIRWAYS ALSO AWARE OF SGAC QUOTA (UNPUBLISHED) OF 36 CHARTER FLIGHTS TO PAPEETE IN 1973 BY SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS.

4. THOMASSET INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SHE AND ABRAHAM ARE RESENTFUL OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER DISCOURTESY AND PRESSURE TACTICS DISPLAYED BY WORLD AIRWAYS IN PROMPTING U. S. DEMARCHE TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES LAST JANUARY (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS). SHE SAID THAT WHEN AUTHORIZING FIRST BATCH OF 12 FLIGHTS AMONG 31 FILED BY WORLD AIRWAYS, ABRAHAM HAD GIVEN COMMITMENT INDICATE BY END OF FEBRUARY WHAT ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS COULD BE AUTHORIZED DEPENDING ON WHETHER OTHER CARRIERS SHOWED INTEREST IN MEANTIME IN CHARTER TRAFFIC TO PAPEETE. (TRANS- INTERNATIONAL HAD EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST LAST YEAR.) ABRAHAM FELT THAT IN ALL FAIRNESS IF OTHER CARRIERS CAME FORWARD THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME FLIGHTS UNDER QUOTA. END FEBRUARY ALSO CONSIDERED ADEQUATE LEAD TIME FOR WORLD AIRWAYS. NOTWITHSTANDING DEMARCHE MADE WITHOUT AWAITING ABRAHAM'S REPLY, ABRAHAM IN FEBRUARY 28 LETTER INFORMED WORLD AIRWAYS THAT 28 OF 31 FLIGHTS APPROVED, I. E., ALL BUT THREE OF TOTAL FIVE LOS ANGELES FLIGHTS. (CARRIER HAS SINCE CANCELLED ONE OF 31 FLIGHTS).

5. HUGHES SAID UTA HAD NO EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT THE THREE CHARTER GROUPS FROM LOS ANGELES AND ON THIS BASIS HAD INFORMED SGAC IT HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THREE FLIGHTS IN QUESTION BY WORLD AIRWAYS.
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YM HUGHES INFORMED US AFTERNOON APRIL 17 THAT HE IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY WET LEASE WORLD AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT TO UTA WHICH WOULD OPERATE LOS ANGELES FLIGHTS ON WORLD AIRWAYS' BEHALF. HE ALSO INTENDS TOMORROW TO REFILE WITH SGAC REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION THREE LOS ANGELES FLIGHTS, ACCOMPANIED BY LETTER WHICH HE HOPES WILL MILLIFY SGAC AND PLACE THOMASSET IN BETTER FRAME OF MIND. HE SAID THAT IF ABOVE MEASURES FAIL WORLD AIRWAYS WILL PROBABLY ASK DEPARTMENT FOR NEW DEMARCHE TO BE MADE TO GOF.

7. COMMENT. SUBJECT TO CONTENT HUGHES LETTER TO SGAC, EMBASSY MAY REITERATE TO SGAC POINTS MADE PARA 3 STATE 12654 IN EVENT SOME OF NUANCES MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN TRANSMITTAL BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SGAC. IF SGAC STILL REFUSES BUDGE, EMBASSY WOULD THEN WISH MAKE RECOMMENDATION RE ADVISABILITY ANY FURTHER OFFICIAL DEMARCHES. DECONTROL FOLLOWING APRIL 17, 1974.
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS10671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730445/aaaaiqny.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PARIS 2880
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980122
Subject: CIVAIR: WORLD AIRWAYS CHARTER PROBLEMS
TAGS: ETRN, FR
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005